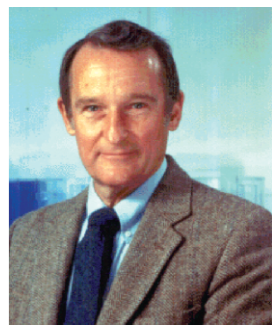


Computer vector register processingKnown as the supercomputer. Supercomputers are defined as computers that have extraordinary high numbers of integrated chips that allow them to process information at much higher speeds than other computers. The first supercomputer, the Cray-1, was unveiled in 1976 by Seymour Cray. In 1985, it was followed by the Cray-2 which was 10 times faster and featured circuits of gallium arsenide instead of silicon chips. Cray was a co-founder of Control Data Corporation in 1957 and later started Cray Research in 1972. His desire to develop the Cray 3 led him to start Cray Computer in 1988. Cray's vehicle was tested against accidents by his own systems, could not save himself, he died in a car crash.



startech@thedailystar

TECHBOOK

A global paperback by local tech prodigy

RIDWAN A KABIR

THIS week we have a different flavour for the StarTech geeks, specially the ones interested in ISP setup and Networking. Tech enhancements of the country has reached higher grounds through ventures that has been initiated by, Sufi Faruq Ibne Abubakar, a local technologist, who has recently impended a international standard tech book titled 'ISP Setup Manual'.

The book, first of its kind from a local author, deals with ISP maintenance and is currently available in the local market. Having a price tag of Taka 390, it is a comprehensive compilation on guidelines and training aspects of ISP support and in-depth world-class techniques on networking and its discretion.

"This book is a step-by-step practical manual that can be used as a cook-book," mentioned Faruq, who is working as the senior IT manager for AKTEL, one of the leading mobile phone operators of the country, at present. While talking to StarTech, Faruq also mentioned



Sufi Faruq Ibne Abubakar

how the book contains necessary essentials starting from the planning phase with additional procurement and deployment along with the required maintenance and monitoring needed by any ISP to stepwise build a proper system structure. Vital features, such as resource distribution and security, along with nominal basics such as acquiring government license, cyber resources, equipment resources and all other initial formalities are also imparted in the contents.

Faruq has stood as a technologist for about seven years in the field of system administration and networking, working for several ISPs including BTS Communications (BD) Ltd. and Western Networks Ltd., while his experiences as a trainer in the field has inspired him to sum up such contents within the bindings, allowing it to be a tested guideline for learning ISP facts. The author has also been a consultant for

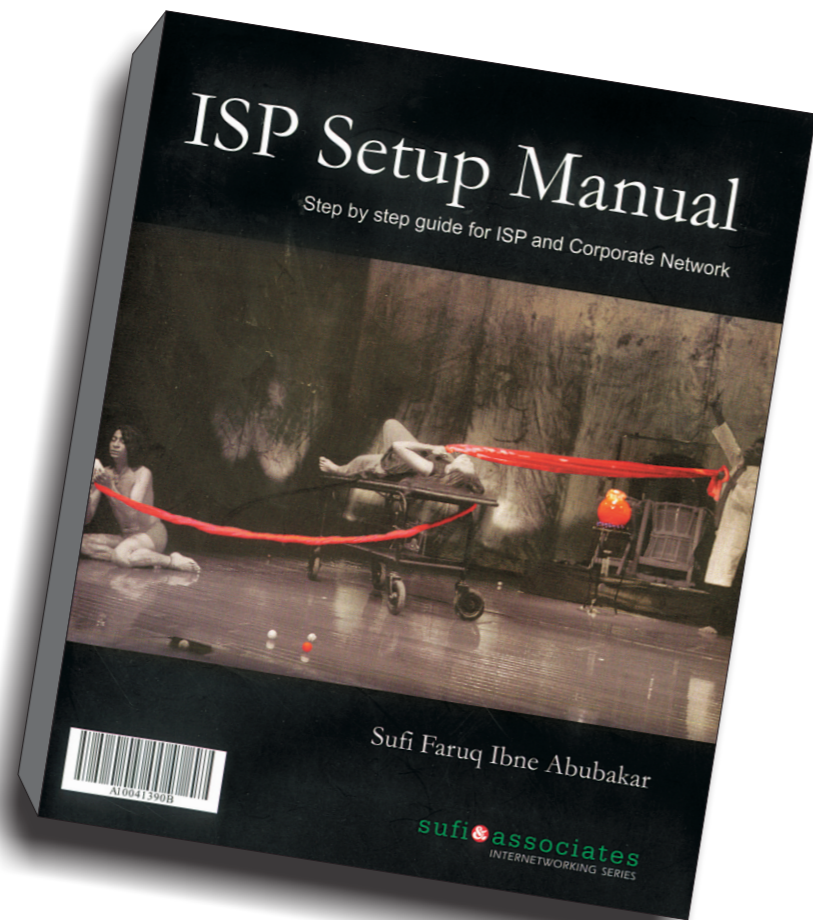
Greenfield Consultants Ltd., while he has been a speaker for South Asian Network Operator Group (SANOG).

"The book is designed in such a way that the readers may be able to execute all essential tasks followed by the items presented in it," said Faruq while mentioning about avoiding in-depth details which may further confuse a prospective learner, although all necessary resources and references are cited within to facilitate the reader on the cardinals. While current ISP related books in the market

provides specific in-depth knowledge on typical criteria, such as the operating system or hardware, which may confuse a beginner in finding out exact practical steps to execute a task. A sketch presentation on ISP systems is also included in the book, while a detailed guideline for collecting each essential resource for a typical ISP setup further enhances reader's experience.

Starting with choosing the right operating system, the author has included schemes such as building a Ethernet based LAN, internet connectivity and traffic routing, bandwidth allocation using cable and wireless, router configuration, VSAT equipment installation, bandwidth manager, along with DNS server troubleshooting, mail, web, FTP servers etc., tower and lightning arrester installation, hardware setup for dialup service, monitoring utilities and security essentials, client-end setup and many more. One may assume that networking knowledge to some extent is necessary to make a complete use of the manual, Faruq confirmed that a common understanding of any UNIX operating systems, along with communication models, network devices and protocol tools is needed to have a complete understanding of the manual.

"In parallel to beginner level



setup strategies, it also covers most of the required corporate level networking essentials," Faruq added, mentioning how IT administrators and corporate executives may as well use this book as a reference handbook. "Sometimes you would find senior level IT administrators barring their juniors from attaining experience on expensive equipment," Faruq points out, "They will have a chance to dig in all that and more from this book."

While the nation's telecommunication fields are encompassing greater dimensions from both private and public sectors, the current bodies of local graduates recently has developed an inclination towards the emerging telecommunication industry. Such a primer will essentially denounce nominal level friction often encountered by IT students on networking aspects. "I will not be surprised to see the manual getting added in the local university curriculum," Faruq said hoping that the ISP manual may have a good chance of getting included as a course reference for the different universities offering telecommunication majors.

The manual comes with a compact disc (CD), which includes all the required software and utilities required for setting up and operating a standard

local ISP. The CD also contains a collection of pictures and videos of equipments, related references and brochures. A glossary serves with a compact and concise definition of the most crucial and introductory terms in the field, while the two appendices contain lists of resources from where further containment may be pursued from the readers' ends.

The international standard paperback of the book, a courtesy by Konok Aditya, art director, *Shaptahik 2000* is bound to capture any reader's eye along with the outstanding paper quality and prints. It is essential to see how the section for network security starts with a picture of a tin-door written "*Bina onumotite probesh nishedh*", which stands for 'No Entry'. Such a creative outlook rescues the reader from the monotonous and boring approaches of usual Tech publications.

The book has been published by Sufi & Associates, a science and technology related Publication Company, which focuses on professional writing on different technological profiles and aspects from the wide world of IT.

TECHPORTAL

Schools in a nutshell

WCL's website on local schools

WINSOCK Corp. Ltd. (WCL), a local software farm is attempting to facilitate information on all schools of the country through their recently launched website www.school-bd.com. The site, carrying data on the most sought-for items that parents and students often look for prior to choosing a school, includes profiles of faculties and student bodies of any registered school along with an updated news and events, location and environment are also available in the site.

"So far we have collected the names and address of about seven thousand schools all over the country," said Kashif Ali Khan, CEO, WCL, acknowledging the support by Bangladesh Karigary Shikha Board.

"Besides offering any necessary information on getting a child admitted in a school, a parallel idea was to familiarise the juvenile generation into the immense world of information technology and what it has to offer," said Khan, who is also very hopeful about the future prospects of the site. In time, Kashif is expectant in adding an interactive messenger on the site through which students, parents, and teachers will be able to

communicate with each other. "Using the site, guardians of the registered schools will also be able to monitor their children's performance," he continued.

Individual and organisational registration can be done for free at the website, keeping the endeavor a complete non-profit attempt. All necessary financial and technical support for the site is being provided by WCL.

The site currently contains a discussion forum, where students are expected to submit problems they may be facing, and teachers' feedback is thought to be submitted in accordance. "This, along with the messenger to be launched in future, will create a common interaction ground for all parties," Khan mentioned. Additional links for browsing through all the seven thousand schools that are being deployed for the site, while the listing is sub-divided in three categories of Bengali medium, and those which follow Cambridge and Oxford syllabus respectively. It should be mentioned here that all English medium schooling in the country is attended under either one of the above two affiliations with Cambridge and Oxford Universities.

Currently some of the popular schools of the city has registered at the site, including Wills Little



Flower and Siddique's. Additional links on the site serves to allow for the most updated Ordinary and Advanced Level syllabi, along with a Reading and Book List to go with the syllabus. A Knowledge FAQ contains some basic questions that students often face with their typical subjects. "We are updating the site regularly," said Khan, specifying on how the work on the site is still on a go.

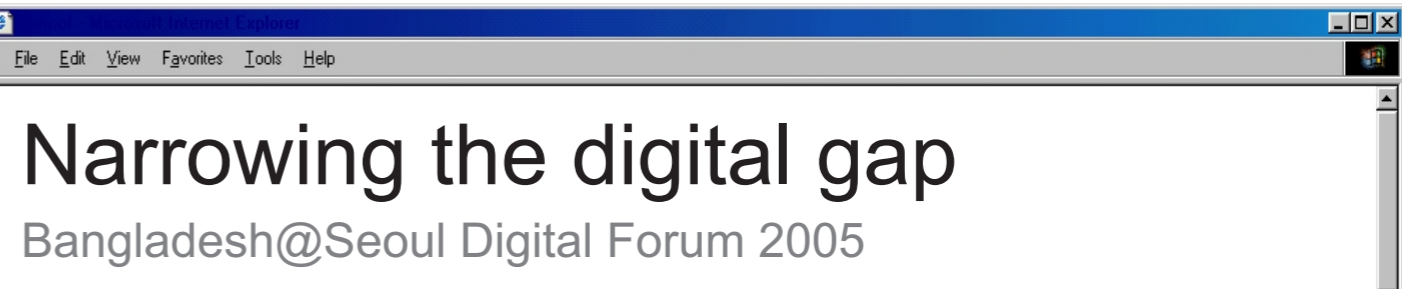
"It is very much essential that our children know the IT edges that they live in today's world," Khan stated, citing that nurturing all possibilities of IT into a child should be considered crucial if the nation is focused on growing

into a IT-oriented ground. "To allow for a IT-oriented nation, I assume we shall have to introduce the power of the net to the younger generation," Khan added.

Recently the British Council (BC) has offered a half-hour slot for WCL to display the assembly of their site at their 'education festival' next month. "This is hoped to allow us expose the credentials of the site to the parents and the teachers," Khan said, which is hoped to further take the awareness of the possible prospects that such a site has to offer among the population.

Ridwan A Kabir

TECHNEWS



Narrowing the digital gap

Bangladesh@Seoul Digital Forum 2005

STARTECH DESK

INFORMATION and Communication Technology (ICT) can be the perfect vehicle through which poverty alleviation and improvements of the socio-economic structure can be easily accomplished," said Science and ICT Minister Moyeen Khan.

The Minister was speaking at the Inauguration ceremony of the 2nd Seoul Digital Forum 2005 and World ICT Summit at South Korea on May 19, says a press release.

The President of South Korea inaugurated the event while Al Gore, former US Vice President presented the keynote speech.

Over 40 prominent IT world leaders including top business executives from some of the world's most-renowned IT companies participated in this year's Digital Forum.

Khan presented the recent



Science and ICT Minister, Moyeen Khan, centre, at the Seoul Digital Forum 2005

developments of the ICT sector in Bangladesh such as the updated ICT policies, issuance of Intellectual Property Rights law, the ICT Incubator and the various IT training and courses that are available to interested Bangladeshis.

Khan also mentioned the plans for the construction of High Tech park, somewhere near the city, which is already underway.

"Head by Prime Minister, Begum Khaleda Zia, our administration will do whatever is necessary to pave the path for

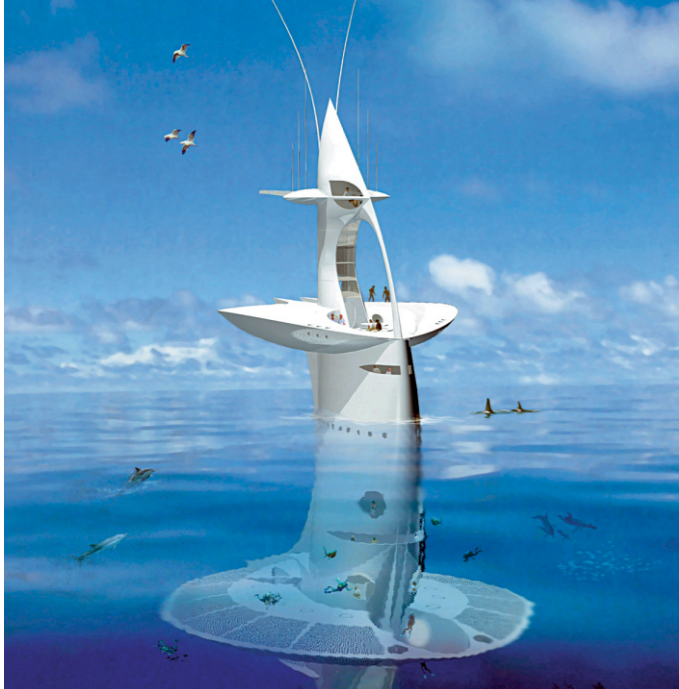
future ICT developments in the country," said Khan.

This year's topic was 'Quo Vadis Ubiquitous: Charting a New Digital Society'.

Celebrated IT personalities like Irwin Jacobs, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Qualcomm, George Colony, CEO, Forrester Research, Namio Yamaguchi, Technology In-Charge, JVC, Dr Rainer Besold, President, Siemens Automation & Drives Division, and Derek Lidow, CEO, iSuppli including many others shared their vision and strategies on ubiquitous environment and the future of digital society.

Recent trends on prerequisite technologies for the ubiquitous environment such as mobile communication, wearable computers, digital multimedia and RFID chips were also discussed at the forum.

TECHPHOTO



SEA ORBITER

This computer generated image shows the Sea Orbiter designed by Frenchman Jacques Rougerie. The international scientific station, Sea Orbiter will drift across the oceans, driven by the current. Its mission is to observe and explore ocean life, to study the interactions between ocean and atmosphere and their impact on our climate. With a life expectancy of 15 years, SeaOrbiter will provide a new tool for multidisciplinary scientific expeditions focusing on climate global change, fish resources, viruses and bacteria.

PHOTO: AFP

TECHNEWS

Commonwealth devises growth strategy for small ICT businesses



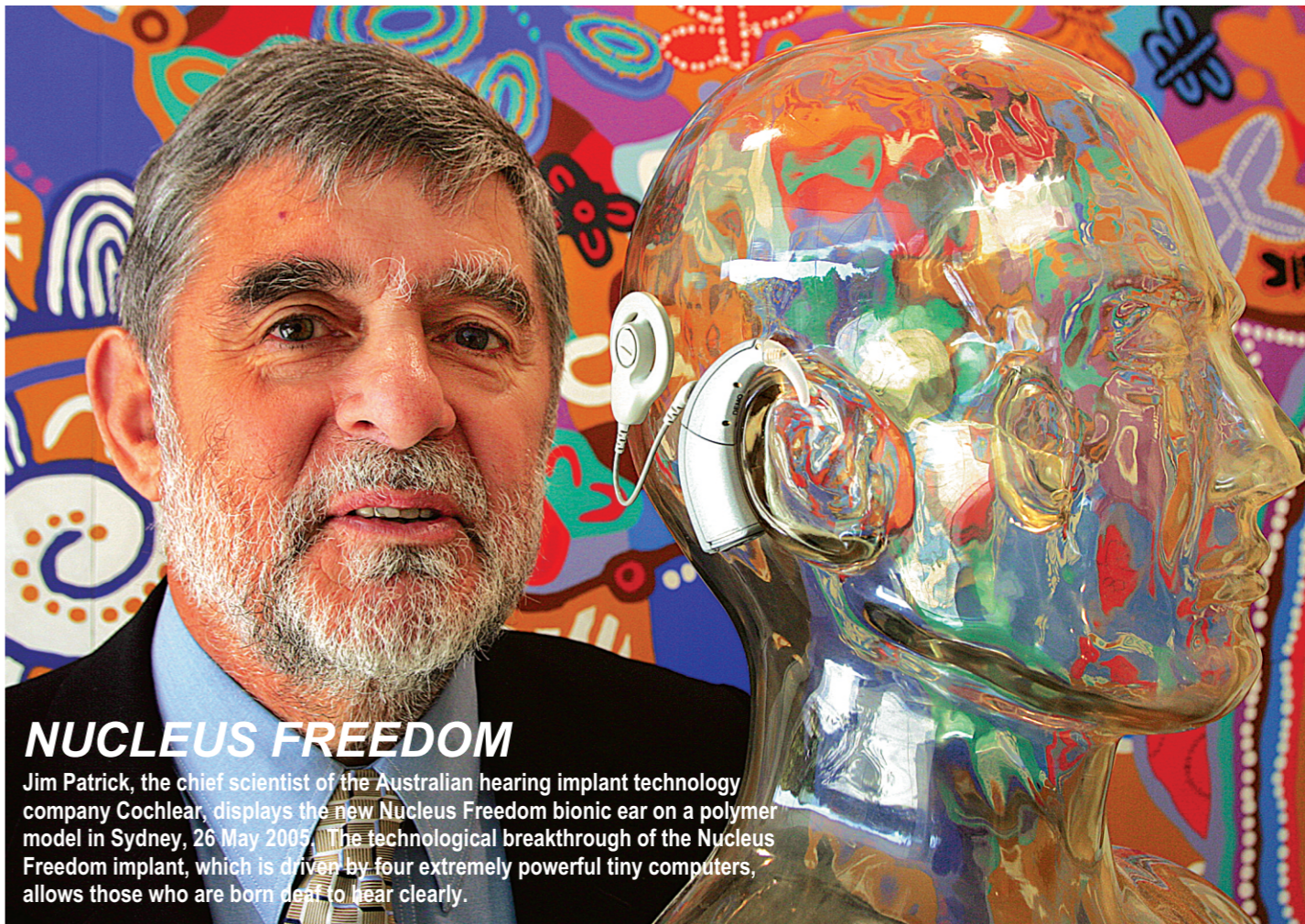
STARTECH DESK

THE Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation (CFTC), the Commonwealth Secretariat's technical assistance arm, has worked with the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Sector of Bangladesh on a project aimed at providing a competitive strategy and development plan. This project commenced in September 2004 and is currently in its implementation stage, says a press release.

This project conducted a comprehensive study of Bangladesh's ICT sector, including an in-depth survey. As a consequence this project, practical tools, through a strategy and development plan, for the rapid development of Bangladesh's ICT sector has been provided. A series of five specialised training modules meant for stakeholders from this sector will take place in Dhaka starting from today and will continue till May 31. These modules will focus on human resources, marketing, best practices and standardisation and building appraisal skills, besides one specifically for the country's Chief Information Officers.

A Project Dissemination Programme highlighting important aspects of this initiative will be held today. This programme will be attended by all important stakeholders from the local ICT sector. Science and ICT Minister, Moyeen Khan will preside over this programme.

One of the key outputs from this project will include the establishment of an ICT Access Centre for Small Businesses. This access centre, being set up in Narshendi and will be inaugurated by the ministr on May 30.



NUCLEUS FREEDOM

Jim Patrick, the chief scientist of the Australian hearing implant technology company Cochlear, displays the new Nucleus Freedom bionic ear on a polymer model in Sydney, 26 May 2005. The technological breakthrough of the Nucleus Freedom implant, which is driven by four extremely powerful tiny computers, allows those who are born deaf to hear clearly.

PHOTO: AFP